

Patria (May 28, 1892): La Revista de Florida

With Tampa, a newspaper was born that Cubans viewed with pleasure, for through it, the spirit of enterprise and the brave and aspiring hearts of its editors, our compatriots, could be measured.

It grieves us to witness the shortcomings of a fellow Cuban. The taste for seeing Cuban merit strengthens and restores health. In Key West, the Cuban Ramón Rivero nurtured his unique eloquence and public spirit, and from Havana came José García Ramírez to assist him with beautiful and exemplary friendship. In La Revista de Florida, warm and expansive, they earned respect and sympathy for the emerging Tampa, without which cities neither rise nor capitals prosper. A palace can rise where no one sees it; a newspaper is a traveling palace where everyone can see it. A newspaper without generosity is a scourge. A generous newspaper is a pillar. And so it was with La Revista de Florida. It was the broad Cuban heart, the broad human heart, that drew attention to it.

It fought for Tampa, for its growth and credit, as if it were a home. And for Cuba, even more so than for Tampa. Its task was not only to build the city and ensure that justice prevailed in it, even when siding with justice meant erring in the inevitable struggle of interests and passions. The task was to build a Cuban city in this country, just and clean and industrious and cultured and beautiful, sometimes more aggressive than charitable, when denied the capacity for such virtues. La Revista de Florida had two special merits: one was its nobility, which led it to welcome and praise any useful work, even if it came from adversaries or those it did not favor. The other was the gift of propaganda, of spreading, communicating, making its way into the world.

La Revista de Florida ceased to exist. But today it reappears. In silence, it has grown; it is permissible to be silent when greater usefulness and improvement come from silence. What matters is to ascend, whether others see it or not, and to help others ascend. La Revista de Florida comes with eight pages, "to represent the general interests of the community," "to provide real services to our community," "to be a new herald of the cause of the people and the good principles that guide the march of indefinite progress, without which there is no possible happiness." And the typography, in the hands of the Cuban J. M. Izaguirre, will be beautiful. Beauty must be cared for, like freedom, because truths themselves move faster on well-kept paths; and muddy or roughly crafted gold is not like the one where eagles and doves are cut by the goldsmith's hand. Everything must be elegant, from the baby's cradle to the work table, from the clothes one wears to the newspaper one reads: a well-dressed army fights better; a beautiful rifle makes one want to test the bullet on poisonous trees; bullets should only go against poison.

And since we know that nothing low or small will ever find shelter in this resurrected newspaper; since we know that its editors are animated by a pure and fervent love for their people and the equality that will make them happy, without this love being dimmed by anger, or fanaticism, or the fear of being unpopular, which is often the reason just causes often lose

the support and respect gained through equanimity and moderation; as if through a sublime hour of purification and oath-taking, we have heard from the founders of La Revista de Florida those accents from the depths of where men exhale and grow; as La Revista de Florida is living proof of the capacity for enterprise and improvement, of national and human dimensions, of the superior and indomitable aspiration of the Creole soul, we greet, confident that it will never fail in its duty to represent it, the newspaper where a Cuban from Key West and a Cuban from Havana defend and honor their homeland abroad, together as brothers: La Revista de Florida.